

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 ACDE-00
/086 W

-----068294 271150Z /17

O 270955Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 851
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
SECDEF
COMIDEASTFOR
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 361

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, XO
SUBJECT: CONFERENCE OF PROGRESSIVE PARTIES OF SOUTHWEST INDIAN
OCEAN

REF A) VICTORIA 196 (DTG 031000Z MAR 78), B) VICTORIA 353 (DTG
250556Z APR 78)

1. CONFERENCE OF PROGRESSIVE PARTIES AND FORCES OF THE SOUTHWEST
INDIAN OCEAN WAS FORMALLY CONVENED APRIL 27 WITH OPEN
SESSION ATTENDED BY SEYCHELLES GOVERNMENT MINISTERS AND OTHER
OFFICIALS, PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS, PRESS AND RESIDENT
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HEADS OF MISSION. KEYNOTE ADDRESS WAS DELIVERED IN FRENCH
BY SEYCHELLES PRESIDENT F.A. RENE. (OFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION
FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL).
CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN JACQUES HODOUL, WHO IS SEYCHELLES MINISTER
OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE, TOLD CHARGE THAT CONFERENCE WILL
BREAK DOWN INTO THREE COMMITTEES AND HOLD CLOSED MEETINGS
APRIL 27-29. ON APRIL 29 RESOLUTIONS WHICH CONFERENCE HAS

ADOPTED WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT OPEN SESSION. ONLY FOUR OF FIVE DELEGATIONS FROM ISLANDS IN REGION (SEYCHELLES, REUNION, MAURITIUS, MADAGASCAR AND COMOROS) WHICH COMPRISE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS WERE PRESENT FOR OPENING SESSION, COMOROS DELEGATION HAVING FAILED TO TURN UP APRIL 26 AS SCHEDULED.

2. IN BRIEF PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE, MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM) SECRETARY GENERAL PAUL BERENGER EXPRESSED IRRITATION THAT COMOROS DELEGATION WAS ABSENT "AFTER SHOWING SO MUCH ENTHUSIASM" BUT HELD OUT HOPE THEY WOULD ARRIVE BEFORE END OF CONFERENCE. BERENGER SAID HE WAS PLEASED WITH TURNOUT OF INVITED OBSERVERS AND NOTED, THUS FAR, PARTY REPRESENTATIVES FROM ANC, SWAPO, PATRIOTIC FRONT, TANZANIA, POLISARIO AND PLO WERE PRESENT.

3. BERENGER THEN REMARKED THAT US WOULD BE "UNHAPPY" WITH RESOLUTIONS ON DEMILITARIZATION WHICH CONFERENCE EXPECTED TO ADOPT. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT CONFERENCE, IN ORDER TO BE CREDIBLE INTERNATIONALLY, SHOULD TAKE A BALANCED VIEW AND ADDRESS ALL ACTIVITIES IN REGION BY ALL STATES. BERENGER REPLIED THAT HE SHARED THIS VIEWPOINT, NOTED THAT PRESIDENT RENE HAD MADE REFERENCE TO "SUPERPOWERS" IN HIS SPEECH AND THAT, DESPITE ANTICIPATED EFFORTS AT COMMITTEE LEVEL TO "NARROW FOCUS", FELT HE HAD MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTION "AIMED AT ALL EXTRA-INDIAN OCEAN STATES".

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